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10/532,077	04/21/2005	Shigeo Ii	052485	6204
38834 7590 02/02/2010 WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
EXAMINER				
LEA, CHRISTOPHER RAYMOND				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1619				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentmail@whda.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/532,077

Applicant(s)

II ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher R. Lea

Art Unit

1619

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6 and 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5, 7 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/22)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/19/2009 & 10/23/2009
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This application is a 371 (national stage application) of PCT/JP03/13469.

Receipt of Amendments/Remarks filed on October 13, 2009, is acknowledged. In response to Non-final office action dated April 15, 2009, applicant amended claims 3-5 & 7, canceled claims 1 & 2, and added new claim 9. Claims 3-9 are pending. Claims 3-5, 7, & 9 are under examination.

Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. All new rejections applied have been necessitated by applicant's amendment to the claims. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement(s) (IDS) submitted on May 19 & October 23, 2009, were before the mailing date of a final Office action on the merits. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements have been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, & 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xiang (CN1146303) in view of Okada et al. (US Patent 5,985,303).

Applicant claims

Applicant claims a food storing article carrying a humidity-dependent antibacterial powdery substance containing a volatile oily antibacterial substance encapsulated by a water-soluble film-forming agent. Applicant further specifies the antibacterial substance as an isothiocyanate ester and the composition as a containing a powder vehicle.

**Determination of the scope and content of the prior art
(MPEP 2141.01)**

Xiang teaches, as a whole, a method for encapsulating spice oils.

Xiang teaches a method for manufacturing microcapsules containing a spice oil, specifically garlic oil (a volatile oily antibacterial substance) as a core of a microcapsule formed by edible gum (a water-soluble film forming agent) (all in Example 2 pages 9-10, and generically in 1st paragraph, page 6). Xiang further teaches that the composition resulting from the method may be in a powdery form (1st paragraph, page 6). Okada *et al.* teach that acacia gum (synonym for gum arabic) is among the possible membrane-forming edible gums for use in the invention (1st paragraph, page 6).

As to the claimed humidity-dependent release behavior, where the claimed and prior art products are substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by substantially identical processes, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established. Further, The U.S. Patent Office is not equipped with analytical instruments to test prior art compositions for the infinite number of ways that a subsequent applicant may present previously unmeasured characteristics. When as here, the prior art appears to contain the exact same ingredients and applicant's own disclosure supports the suitability of the prior art composition as the inventive composition component, the burden is properly shifted to applicant to show otherwise. Absent evidence to the contrary, the prior art composition must possess the claimed humidity-dependent release behavior, since it is produced by a process substantially identical to the claimed composition (See MPEP § 2112.01).

**Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims
(MPEP 2141.02)**

The difference between the teachings of Xiang and the instant claims is that Xiang does not teach allyl isothiocyanate as the active agent. This deficiency in Xiang is cured by the teachings of Okada et al.

Okada et al. teach, as a whole, a powdery shelf-life extender for food use.

Okada et al. teach that allyl isothiocyanate is the preferred active ingredient in the powdery composition (column 2 lines 45-53 and claim 4). Note that the limitation a "food storing article" is intended use and met as long as the structure is capable of performing that function; as such the examiner has interpreted a "food storing article" to be any item capable of carrying the powdery antibacterial substance and an item of food. Okada et al. teach employing the powdery shelf-life extender composition in a package (i.e. container, column 4, lines 1-35). Okada et al. teach that starch is among the possible polysaccharides for use in the matrix, and that multiple matrix substances are possible in the composition (column 2 line 64 through column 3 line 12). A combination of starch and another polysaccharide allows the starch to act as a powder vehicle.

**Finding of *prima facie* obviousness
Rationale and Motivation (MPEP 2142-2143)**

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to employ allyl isothiocyanate as taught by Okada

et al. in the microencapsulation technology as taught by Xiang and produce the instant invention. The skilled artisan would have been motivated to incorporate allyl isothiocyanate as the spice oil in the method of Xiang because allyl isothiocyanate is an oily extract of horseradish or mustard (spices) and Xiang teaches that any spice oil is useful to be microencapsulated. Common sense (as well as Okada et al.) would lead the skilled artisan to collect the resultant powdery substance in a container for storage purposes.

From the teachings of the references, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in using allyl isothiocyanate in the microencapsulation method and producing the claimed invention. Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

In light of the forgoing discussion, one of ordinary skill in the art would have concluded that the subject matter defined by the instant claims would have been obvious within the meaning of 35 USC 103(a).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed October 13, 2009, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that one of ordinary skill in the art when considering the references as a whole would not have been 1) motivated to combine them and 2) able to produce the claimed invention with a reasonable expectation of

success based on this combination. This examiner does not find these arguments convincing.

As to 1), applicant argues that Xiang is directed to preserving volatile spice oils, that Okada is directed to food preservation by emanation of allyl isothiocyanate, and that these two functions (preserving and emanation) are in direct opposition to one another. The examiner disagrees, in fact, the examiner finds that the "high storage tolerance" described by Xiang (paragraph spanning p 7 & 8) is exactly what is desired by Okada stating "[i]n order that the freshness of food may be maintained, it is necessary that a constant rate of emanation and an effective concentration (2-3 ppm) be maintained over an extended period of time" (col1, lines 49-53). Such teaching from Okada motivates one of ordinary skill in the art to seek out a composition that can leach only a low level of compound over a long period of time, which, the examiner contends, is the very definition of high storage tolerance. The examiner believes that the "retention rate" referenced in Xiang refers to the amount of volatile oil that was not lost or damaged in the manufacturing process, not to the amount of oil retained over an unspecified storage period as applicant appears to be arguing. Regardless, Okada and Xiang seek to solve the same problem (albeit with different ultimate goals) of having a volatile spice oil not be released too quickly; therefore the skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine the teachings of the references.

As to 2), the applicant's argument appears to be based on the incompatibility of the references as the applicant asserts that "if Xiang is modified to include the isothiocyanate ester and food storing packaging material from Okada as alleged by the

Office Action, then one of ordinary skill in the art would modify the product of Xiang to include the isothiocyanate acid compound-matrix as taught in Okada.” The examiner fails to see how and why the applicant arrived at this logical conclusion, unless one proceeds from the assumption that the references are not combinable due to different functions. As the examiner has addressed this argument above, the examiner is similarly not convinced by it here.

The expected result remains the same; an article carrying an antibacterial volatile oil-containing powdery composition is made in the absence of evidence to the contrary. No unexpected results have been presented. Applicant's arguments are not persuasive, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is maintained

Conclusion

Claims 3-5, 7, & 9 are rejected. Claims 6 & 8 are withdrawn. No claims are allowed.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Lea whose telephone number is (571) 270-5870. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:00 ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne "Bonnie" Eyler can be reached on (571)272-0871. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Ernst V Arnold/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1616